

- I. Claims 1-30, drawn to a composition for use in regulating hormones of a host comprising at least one antisense oligonucleotides complementary to a sequence of follicle stimulating hormone receptor (FSH-R)
- II. Claims 31-64, drawn to a method of regulating the fertility of a host comprising administration of the antisense oligonucleotides;
- III. Claims 65-95, drawn to a method for chemoprevention or chemotherapy in a host comprising administration of the antisense oligonucleotide to FSH-R.

The Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement for the following reasons. The Examiner contends that the three groups of claims represent three distinct inventions. Since all three groups of claims share the common antisense oligonucleotides, the Examiner would not be placed under an undue burden by combining these claims since a search by the Examiner of the antisense oligonucleotide sequence would include methods of use as well.

MPEP §803 indicates that even if a patent application contains independent and distinct inventions, those inventions should be considered together by the Examiner if s/he can do so without any undue burden. Therefore, even assuming arguendo that the claims of Groups I, II and III do define three separate inventions, the Examiner can consider all of them without placing herself under an undue burden since they all relate to methods of utilizing common antisense oligonucleotide sequences.

In the event that the Examiner does not withdraw the restriction requirement then the Applicants elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-30, for prosecution on the merits in the present application.

In addition, the Examiner has asked that the Applicants elect a single sequence from unrelated polynucleotide sequences SEQ ID NOS 1-4. The Applicants respectfully traverse this election requirement. In point of fact, SEQ ID NOS 1 and 2 are related in that SEQ ID 1 is human antisense genomic DNA, while SEQ ID 2 is the human mRNA. Similarly, SEQ ID 3 is porcine antisense genomic DNA, while SEQ ID 4 is the porcine mRNA. In any event, if the Examiner persists in the election requirement, Applicants elect SEQ ID 1.

Respectfully submitted,

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